

that in many sections of the city it was impossible to secure from the pharmacies which are supposed to have them on hand, the culture tubes and swabs supposedly supplied by the Board of Health; or when any were on hand, they were too old and nearly or quite dried up. The druggists explained that they had great difficulty in prying these tubes out of the Board of Health and could get them only in very small numbers and by sending for them repeatedly. This should by all means be corrected for one cannot minimize the possible danger of delay in some cases and of great inconvenience and annoyance in most. The medical profession will assuredly cooperate with the health board, but the latter must do its part and make the work as little irksome as may be. Look out for more diphtheria and more carriers.

OSTEOPATHIC "DOCTORS."

Of course, anyone who had studied the history of the art of treating the sick knew that the osteopath was merely a person who wanted to take some short and easy path to the golden goal of treating sick people and getting their money away from them. There are always such methods of side approach, under various names, for many people do not care how dishonest they are if they can get money by it and stay within the letter of the law. Therefore they want to be licensed to treat sick people by some new method—which means that when they get that special license, they assume to be "doctors" and the patient does not know the difference. The osteopaths and other drugless healers are doing the same thing and always have; only now they want still more—they want to have their "schools" allowed to issue the degree of doctor of medicine and they want their graduates to take the license of "physician and surgeon." Undoubtedly there are some able men who are osteopaths; but they are sadly few and they have really educated themselves in *medicine* and have more knowledge than the graduate of an osteopathic school possesses. Last year the Board of Medical Examiners examined and classified the various schools in the state, through a committee of the board, and placed upon its minutes the report of the committee. We find the following comment in relation to the Los Angeles College of Osteopathy:

"Entrance requirements: Very lax, the main desire seems to be to obtain as large as possible a number of fee paying students. Many of the students are men and women past middle life (35 and over; some over 60 years). Advanced standing is granted graduates of all osteopathic institutions. Dr. Shaw states that about a dozen such students come to them every year from other institutions and that from 30 to 40 yearly take post-graduate instruction. Drs. Shaw and Forbes stated repeatedly that their students (according to the law) do not have as much premedical education as do the physicians and surgeons. At the same time they insist upon their graduates being given unlimited or 'physician and surgeon' licenses. They absolutely decline to apply for 'drugless prac-

itioner' licenses, although they claim that they teach pure osteopathy."

"Clinic and hospital departments: The majority of the rooms are dark and require artificial lighting."

"Eye department: . . . It is stated that this eye department is a separate corporation owned by Ring and Ruddy."

And so it goes on, from one phase of the "college" work to another, each revealing and accentuating the greed of the owners and the worthlessness, from the scientific or teaching point of view, of the whole enterprise. And they want the output of this money-making plant to be licensed physicians and surgeons, the same license that the graduate of Johns Hopkins receives after all his years of hard work! And they will get it, some day soon. Is it not more and more evident that the license to practice will mean nothing, after a while, and that membership in a recognized County Medical Society must take its place in our relative attitude toward the public—or rather, the public attitude toward the real physician and surgeon?

THE CANCER PROBLEM.

A special committee of the Pennsylvania State Medical Society has been working for some time on the problem of the reduction of cancer mortality. They have hit upon a rather novel plan to secure more interest on the part of physicians and have made the suggestion that every medical journal in the country devote its July issue to the subject of cancer and to run large advertisements relating thereto. If some of our members will prepare articles on the subject of cancer, we will be glad to run them in the July issue and make further comment on the campaign to reduce the mortality from this cause. Their proposed advertisement is as follows, and we take pleasure in running it in advance—and in this place:

PHYSICIANS

Will You Help Reduce Cancer Mortality?

Seventy-five thousand people die from Cancer in the United States every year.

The public is gradually becoming alive to the "Cancer Menace" and will soon demand more active efforts from us.

Are you doing all you can to diminish Cancer Mortality among your patients?

You can help by:

1. Always being on the watch to make an early diagnosis.
2. By insisting on proper treatment WITHOUT DELAY.

REGISTER AND DIRECTORY.

The cold, bony hand of Fate seemed to have grasped and held for its very own, the last edition of the Register and Directory! Never were there so many changes and corrections to be made; never before did things seem to pile up just at the wrong time and cause delay after delay. The book which should have been issued last October or November, did not come from the press till the first week in March, and this in spite of everything that it was possible to do to hurry it along.

But at last it is out and a copy has been delivered or mailed to every member of the society. If some there be who were annoyed at the delay, will they please bear in mind the possible degree of annoyance to everyone in the State Society office—and forgive!

TO LICENSE CALIFORNIA GRADUATES WITHOUT EXAMINATION.

There is a bill before the present Legislature that looks so good at first glance, to the average citizen, that it seems likely to be well thought of by the legislators and to pass. It is a bill to license all graduates of legally chartered and reputable medical schools in California, to practice without an examination by the Board of Medical Examiners. Of course the osteopathic schools will be graduating "doctors of medicine" and of course they are legally chartered and, equally of course, they will howl mightily that they are most "reputable"—in spite of the minutes of the Board of Examiners!

VENARSEN.

This product, prepared by the H. M. Fletcher Co., Inc., Los Angeles, California, is being extensively exploited as an intravenous injection for the treatment of syphilis, pellagra, tuberculosis, anemia, etc. This product is described in this number of the Journal, in the Department of Pharmacy and Chemistry, p. 159. It is almost criminal for physicians to use a preparation of secret composition and to administer it by intravenous injection, a method which in itself is likely to give rise to accidents.

THE IMPUDENCE OF T. FLOYD BROWN, M. D.

Unfortunately he is really a graduate in medicine and licensed to practice in California. His name is T. Floyd Brown and at one time he was a member of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, but he was dropped from that organization for unethical conduct. He keeps up the same sort of conduct, but like most of his kind, is a plausible talker and writer and may deceive some of our less suspicious members. He is promoting a special "no-detention" secret treatment of his own, for the morphine-opium habit, and has sent circular letters to a great many, if not all, physicians in this state. He announces in one of his circulars that he has opened a San Francisco office (headquarters being in Los Angeles) and in letters states that he has secured the services of a physician in San Francisco to look after his business. The physician mentioned called at the JOURNAL office and stated emphatically that he would have none of T. Floyd Brown or his treatment or his methods. Quite a nice mess. Just remember something of the record of T. Floyd Brown, when his letters and circulars come to your office, and cast them into the waste basket.

OUR LAW DEPARTMENT.

Every activity of the Society is growing, and this includes the work of our legal department. The actual defense of alleged malpractice suits is only a part of the work; our attorneys do a great deal of work for the members, in smoothing things over, preventing suits, advising, and the like. We should appreciate this and co-operate with them. Our members should bring to our attorneys their law work outside of suits and threats for damages; such work as the preparation of wills, deeds, contracts, etc. Our attorneys are the best all-around attorneys that we can secure and they can attend to your private work as well as to your interests when you are threatened or sued by some disgruntled patient. That is, if they have the time. We now have first-class attorneys representing us in several centers and before long we will undoubtedly have a legal representative in nearly all of the larger places in the state. Do not think or feel as one physician did, who said to one of our attorneys: "I suppose you specialize on malpractice cases, and you would not attend to drawing my will"! This shows a sad lack of understanding of a lawyer's business, for he would not be a good lawyer to defend you in a malpractice suit if he were not a good lawyer in every way; with a sound knowledge of the law in general and a first-class understanding of procedure and general law practice. In a letter, one of our attorneys, discussing several matters of general interest to the Society, said: "The handling of malpractice cases is a losing proposition from a lawyer's standpoint, as commercial work is not as difficult work and pays him directly and indirectly very much more." It is evident that eventually the Society will be doing a great deal of law work for its members, but the members must come in closer touch with our attorneys and the relations between them must be more friendly and more personal and must not be confined to this one subject of malpractice matters.

MEDICAL DEFENSE DISCUSSION.

Two communications of importance have been received in answer to the request to our members to set forth their views on the subject of medical defense by the Society and the rules pertaining thereto. Dr. Kreutzmann brings out some very broad general principles which may well be carefully thought over and perchance acted upon in the future; there seems no reason why a stupid judge should not be made to know that we are aware of his stupidity or injustice; and such things do happen.

Dr. Juilly brings up a number of detail points and they are open for discussion. Does it work a hardship on any physician to require that he shall not sue to collect an account within one year without first putting his case and account before the Council? Many physicians do not approve of suing for accounts at all. Dr. Juilly is wrong in some of his assumptions. The majority of people who refuse to pay their accounts and threaten counter suits do not belong to the migratory class of hotel dwellers. And as a matter of business